

Title: A Wizard's Tale

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When I was young I
dreamed of simple things
as children do. I
dreamed of magic and
spells without price or
effort. I know better
now. Great things bear
considerable prices.

My youth is not
worth space beyond those
dreams. I learned the
basic skills a mage should
know. Then did I set
forth to seek my fortune
in the town of Haven.

In Haven the wizard
Uzeraan agreed to help
me for a price. Should I
aid him in helping Haven
he would see to my
training and supply for
my apprenticeship. From
him I learned many things.

In Haven I asked for
any who knew of a
college of wizards, or of
a great wizard who took
apprentices. A noble
lady, Bethany by name,
shod me and told me to
seek elsewhere.

But Haven was not
enough, and soon I
sought to see more of
the world. I knew there
were more magics than
the mages told, and I
yearned for them with a
passion beyond Haven.

In Moonglow I sought
again for a master of all
magics to study under.
Though I found him not, I
found kindness there. A
stranger took me aside,
and on hearing of my
quest to master all the

magics aided me most kindly. This unknown, virtuous, man clothed me in a mage's arcane robes.

He gave me reagents to practice with, and told me some about the world.

I am indebted to him.

In return he asked that I learn of and seek out the virtues. I readily agreed to his charge, for in my heart I have always sought be virtuous. This charge was the noblest of gifts.

Having learned how little of even imagery I knew I set forth to Britain. There did I buy new spells to work with from the cities mages. But none could tell me more of other magics.

Continuing my quest I journeyed again through the Moongate. Jhelom was my next stop. But beautiful though the city is, it did not hold the wizard's knowledge I sought.

Again in Britain I found myself poor and needing gold. A good man, Grim by name, led me to the mountain passes near Wind. Here would I hunt for some time.

Vesper, Minoc, Cove, and Skara Brae. In all these did I seek to learn of wizards or their schools. None had that which I sought. Nor had any ever heard of such a thing.

Then one day whilst hunting a great lady, Athena, stunned me. She fought beside a magnificent creature. A mare as black as night named Shadow and possessed of great power.

Enchanted by her companion, and her beauty,

I sat and spoke with her for hours. When we grew hungry I marked a rune and from the bank brought a feast in my picnic basket.

Yet even Athena had nought to offer my need for magic. Her company was intoxicating, but my burning hunger drew me onwards. I knew my quest would continue.

For a time I fought the orcs near Cove, and continued hunting near Wind, seeking gold for my needs. I continued to wander the world having bought a small boat, which I named Farseer.

Together Farseer and I sailed the world in search of magic. Buccaneer's Den, Monster Island, Serpent's Hold, Nujelm, Magincia, all were empty of that which I sought.

I learned of my quest's next step soon though. In my travels I have died many times, only the kindness of strangers and healers has saved me so far. So I know some of death.

But as I died I learned more. Soon I could sense spirits, and learned to speak with them. They told me of the magics of death. And told me to seek them out in Umbra.

Intrigued I returned to the Moongate again. I stepped into it and holding thoughts of death magic in my mind bent it to my will. The Moongate would take me to another world. I willed it to be so. Beyond I found a dark and terrible city. Filled with powerful magics, but

tainted with the evil that
death, and undeath, bring.

Here I found new
teachers. Evil teachers.

In the dark city of
Umbra I found at last
that which I sought. Or
so I foolishly thought.
Necromancers there
agreed to train me, for
a price. And I started
on a fell path that day.

Soon I ventured
beyond the city of Umbra
to seek new spells. Dark
spells. I saw an
abandoned pyramid, orcs,
deserts, crystal forests,
and dark magic I will not
speak of here.

Yet still I knew
there was more. And
from my fellow
necromancers I learned
even darker things. I
learned of the taint on
my soul such magics left.

But no taint would
keep me from my quest
to become a great
wizard, and so I would
pay a black price. For
each necromantic spell
would stain my soul with
an eternal mark.

Then the day came
that again my quest was
laid forth. I had
ventured far west of
Umbra to seek more
spells. My spellbook was
nearly complete. Orcs
beset me from ahead.

Twas then that I saw
the spirit of a slain
warrior and raising him
with magic was led to a
new land. Across islands
and bridges we traveled
until the sky cleared and
the sun shone through.

Here in a new land
of Malas I met two more
men. Noble knights they
quested like me to
destroy monsters and rid
the land of evil. But

their spells were strange,
and I hungered for them.

They spoke of
Masters of Chivalry and
holy mages in a fair city
of Luna. They told me
of how I could atone for
my tainted magics by
making a pilgrimage to
them there.

Thus bolstered with
hope for my soul's state
and hungering for new
spells I set forth. North
led the road. Past
merchants it went. A
camp of murderers I
passed, and laid waste.

At the end of my
road lay a shining city
built of sandstone.
Great walls were around
it, and in the center a
fortress city. Here in
the beauty of Luna I
would find what I sought.

The holy warriors
there agreed to help me
if I would do penance for
my sins. Handing me a
book and teaching me only
the basics of chivalry
they sent me forth to
learn more.

Upon me they laid a
charge most dangerous. I
was to wander the world
unshod, clothed only in my
death shroud. No magic
to bear save two holy
relics. My weapon no
longer spells but a pike.

This charge they lay
on me until I should have
repented my unholy ways.

I was to bear this
quest until I had learned
more of chivalrous ways
than I had of dark
necromancies.

From Luna I set
forth. For a time I
wandered afoot slaying
evil where I found it. I
learned new powers and
vanquished many a lesser
evil. My path led far
south and west.

Far beyond the city I
found a magical forest.
Within lay faerie groves
surrounding great yew
trees. Here was peace
for my heart. In the
faerie woods did I in
safety practice chivalry.

Aided and taught by
the faeries I at last
learned enough of my new
magic to cleanse away
some of the dark taint.
Thus renewed I took up
my magics again. Thus
strengthened I set forth.

Returning at last to
Britain I am now resolved.
In this land, and in
distant ones, I have
sought for magic. I have
found much, but no
master who will teach.
No college of wizards.

This morn I woke
with a vision still in my
eyes. I have seen a
white tower filled with
knowledge. In it were
teachers and students, all
magics were taught. I
know now where to seek.

I am to learn of the
three magics. When I
have mastered them I
shall build the college I
saw. So now my
quest truly begins. Truly
I only can I say I have
begun a wizard's tale